

on the subject. Jefferson wrote Monroe that the treaty could not be ratified; but urged him- to delay negotiations to gain time—"the most precious of all things to us."

In the midst of the tension (for rumors of the nature of the treaty had spread through the country) the outrage of the previous year was repeated, with even more exasperating and humiliating particulars, when in June, 1807, the *Chesapeake* was fired into by the *Leopard*, a British man-of-war, outside the Capes at Norfolk. The *Chesapeake*, though a frigate intended for fighting, was totally unprepared for action. Three of her crew were killed and eighteen wounded. After having been severely crippled she surrendered and was searched. The British commander refused to receive her as a prize, and with difficulty she made her way back to Hampton Roads.

As before, Jefferson issued a proclamation calling for the departure from American waters of all armed vessels belonging to Great Britain, and, in the event of their refusal to depart, forbidding them to be supplied with the necessaries of life. A special messenger was sent to England to demand satisfaction. But the futility of these two measures was everywhere recognized. Republicans as well as Federalists called upon the President for action—for action that should show a spirit worthy of respect from a foreign nation. Congress was called to meet in special session in October, when the President hoped to be able to announce from England a more conciliatory policy. But the hope was vain. Monroe's career in England had been a succession of failures, and he had returned to\* America in no cordial mood towards Jefferson, the author of the innumerable humiliations which he had been made to suffer. The contemptuous attitude of England culminated in November, 1807, when the King approved new orders in Council for the suppression of American interests on the sea. Napoleon's successes on land had broken down all semblance of neutrality among the powers of Europe. He forced every country to> take the side either of France or of England. England had only her naval power with which to oppose this coercion. According to the new orders, American shipping was held to be no longer